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IZING IN PRIVATE HOUSES.

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A SIMPLE DEVICE FOR STERILIZING IN PRIVATE HOUSES.

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IN these days, when success in surgery depends upon complete and thorough sterilization, the surgeon is often put to his wits' end to know just how to accomplish this when operating in private houses.

Clearly we cannot depend upon the so-called aseptic gauzes, sponges, ligatures, etc., which are so freely sold in the market; for, even granting that they are sterile when packed at the factory, they cannot remain so long, and they are certainly unsafe after being in a drug-store for an indefinite period.

I have been using the following simple device when operating in private houses,—not only with complete satisfaction so far as simplicity in technique is concerned, but also with a decided lessening of personal anxiety and discomfort.

I use a No. 2 Arnold Steam Sterilizer, which has ample space for all the necessary articles needed in abdominal work, and, therefore, of sufficient size for all branches of surgery. To render it portable, I have had Messrs. Chas. Lentz & Sons, of Philadelphia, make a round leather case of the following dimensions: Fourteen and one-fourth inches high by twelve and one-fourth inches in diameter. The lid fits over the top of the case in a way similar to that of the ordinary hat-box. The sterilizer

fits snugly into this case, and can be carried about with no more inconvenience than a small hand-bag.

The following articles are packed in the sterilizer and kept ready for use at a moment's notice: Two dozen gauze sponges; two large and four small gauze pads; one yard of iodoform gauze; three glass drainage-tubes, of different sizes; two rubber drainage-tubes; rubber tubing for intestinal ligatures; the irrigating-tube and nozzle; five large towels; one dozen safety-pins; a nail-brush, and the dressings, which consist of two yards of gauze, absorbent cotton, and one yard and a half of Canton flannel.

With the above articles in the sterilizer the surgeon has at his command all that is required in any abdominal case, and he is therefore ready for any emergency. Upon arriving at the house of the patient the sterilizer is taken out of the case, filled with water, and placed upon the kitchen range.

I always keep on hand a duplicate set of the articles which go in the sterilizer, and immediately repack it after every operation. The general surgeon may either keep the sterilizer packed or place in it such articles as he may deem necessary at the time he is called to a patient.

The advantage of this portable sterilizer is not only its great convenience, but, what is more important still, the certainty of thorough sterilization, which is so difficult to accomplish in private houses.



